



◀ CERB NEWS ▶

State investments in Benton and Douglas counties will support business development, plus future growth through economic feasibility plans, as a result of actions taken at the March 17, 2005 meeting of the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB).

Port of Benton

CERB conditionally approved a \$20,000 grant for the Port of Benton to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed construction of a freight transload facility in Benton County on Port-owned property. The study is needed to determine the economic benefits if such a facility were constructed, and will evaluate ways to make the agriculture-based economy more profitable and diversify the local economy from its current dependence on government contracts. The proposed transload facility would allow small or less efficiently packed truck hauls to be delivered to a centrally located refrigerated facility, then re-packaged for distribution outside the area using the Tri-City and Olympia Railroad Company with connections to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads. The facility would be used to ship and receive produce and related goods in and out of the area, provide cost efficiencies, and reduce the normal wear and tear on State highway systems, as well.



Port of Benton's Manufacturing Mall

The transloading of produce is currently occurring in limited quantities via the Tri-Cities and Olympia Railroad Company through a lease of existing Port of Benton facilities and the Port of Benton railroad system.

“A small business version of a transload operation, developed by the Tri-City and Olympia Railroad in a refurbished Port building is what has inspired the Port of Benton to explore the possibilities of a well designed, location-appropriate, optimum operating transload facility,” said Scott Keller, Executive Director of the Port of Benton. *“The development of the Port of Benton’s Manufacturing Mall, a probable location for the project, is considered critical to the City of Richland and the Tri-Cities area,”* continued Keller. *“Further development of the rail system and facilities supporting the agricultural industry will increase the growth of agricultural businesses in the region, which is a specific goal of the economic development strategy of the community,”* concluded Keller.

CERB funds are matched with \$20,000 in Port funds.

Port of Douglas County

CERB conditionally approved a \$30,000 grant for the Port of Douglas County to conduct feasibility study to evaluate the market potential for exporting premium grade chilled pork (refrigerated) value-added products to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries. The study will also create a business plan for Washington farmers to get involved in hog farming. With other public funds, the Port study will also provide the needed information to recruit a prospective processing plant to locate in the state distribution and export of a premium grade pork product.



Port of Douglas
County Logo

"This project has the potential of affecting all of Eastern Washington," said Pat Haley, Director, Port of Douglas County. "The number of hog farms necessary for Japanese demand will be spread throughout several Central Washington counties, such as Douglas, Adams, Grant, Lincoln, Whitman, Walla Walla, Benton, Garfield, Asotin and Columbia. Farmers will have the opportunity to both raise barley grain needed for the hog feed and raise the animals used in production," concluded Haley.

The Port of Douglas County has partnered with Terry Brewer, Director of the Grant County Economic Development Council over the past three years in developing the planning funding to evaluate the potential of this industry in Washington State.

CERB funds are matched with \$115,000 in other federal and local funds.

Comment from Judith Boekholder, CERB Chair and Juli Wilkerson, Director of CTED...

"Planning and evaluating for future economic development is a critical tool the CERB Program offers in rural counties," said Judith Boekholder, CERB Chair. "The investment of CERB funds in feasibility and planning helps rural communities bridge the gap that can lead to the implementation of priority economic development projects supporting business development and job creation," concluded Boekholder.

"Collaboration between the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's Economic Development Division staff and local project sponsors helps strengthen and guide projects to state financing opportunities, such as CERB," said Juli Wilkerson, Director of CTED. "These two planning projects affecting the Tri-Cities and greater Central Washington are examples of the depth and breadth of community and CTED staff work that's required to prepare attractive sites for future business development and new job creation. CTED is pleased to work with CERB in support of Washington's industrial business climate," concluded Wilkerson.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY,
TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

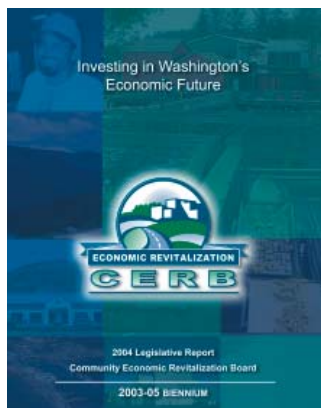


CERB Board Members and Staff March 2005

Update

The 2004 CERB Legislative Report is available upon request.

Contact Janea Eddy, Program Assistant at janea@cted.wa.gov or 360-725-4052.



Upcoming CERB Meetings

July 21, 2005

September 15, 2005
(Applications due August 1, 2005)

November 17, 2005
(Applications due October 3, 2005)

GOVERNOR APPOINTED

Judith Boekholder, Chair
Toppenish, Washington
City Official

Jeffrey Matson, Vice Chair
Sunnyside, Washington
Port Official

George Raiter
Kelso, Washington
County Official

Vicki Gordon
Pasco, Washington
Small Business Representative

Dennis Townsend
Eatonville, Washington
Small Business Representative

Jack Pittis
Port Angeles, Washington
Public Representative

Joe Pinzone
Camas, Washington
Large Business Representative

Marty Gardner
Kennewick, Washington
Large Business Representative

Tom Trulove
Cheney, Washington
Public Sector Economist

Leroy Williams
Bremerton, Washington
Small Business Representative

Miland Walling
Bickleton, Washington
Small Business Representative

Vacant
Federally Recognized Indian
Tribe Representative

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Vacant
Senate Majority Caucus
Senator Mike Hewitt
Senate Minority Caucus
Representative John McCoy
House Majority Caucus
Representative Dan Newhouse
House Minority Caucus

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Elizabeth Robbins
Dept. of Transportation
Gary Kamimura
Employment Security Dept.
Victor Vasquez
Community Trade & Econ. Dev.
Skeets Johnson
Dept. of Revenue

CERB/CEAC

Kate Engle Rothschild
CERB Program Manager
Janea Eddy
CERB Program Assistant
Tina Cohen
Special Projects Manager
Dara Fredericksen
CEAC Managing Director

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Dick Larman
PDS Managing Director
Brent Bahrenburg
Project Dev. Staff
Terry Lawhead
Project Dev. Staff
Bob Sandoval
Project Dev. Staff

CERB is a state economic development resource strategically focused to help business and industry create and retain jobs in partnership with local communities.

CERB provides financing for construction of public facilities that support private sector development and increased employment opportunities.

Management support is provided by Community, Trade & Economic Development, Washington's lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable economic vitality throughout the state.

Communities with potential projects are encouraged to contact CERB staff at 360.725.4058 or by email to KateR@cted.wa.gov

